

A bill for an act

relating to natural resources; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to implement management strategies for deer in the bovine tuberculosis management zone.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **DEER MANAGEMENT IN BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS MANAGEMENT ZONE.**

(a) The commissioner of natural resources shall implement the following management strategies to improve the deer population in the bovine tuberculosis management zone, deer permit area 101, established in Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, and Roseau Counties:

(1) petition the United States Department of Agriculture to reduce the quota of deer to be sampled in the bovine tuberculosis management zone;

(2) partner with local agencies, businesses, and deer hunters to develop strategies to ensure that hunter-harvested deer satisfy the annual quota to be tested for bovine tuberculosis;

(3) establish a pilot project to transition deer permit area 101 from a disease management zone to a deer habitat improvement zone; and

(4) establish a deer habitat improvement work group as a subgroup of the Bovine Tuberculosis Stakeholder Committee to develop local management strategies and tactics to improve deer habitat and assist in the implementation of land management practices to optimize year-round deer habitat.

(b) Bovine tuberculosis testing shall continue in the area described in paragraph (a).

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.